



**Intro:** Unless you are a very patient person there are two things you probably don't want to do with me. 1. Go to a museum...I read EVERY sign. 2. Go to a botanical Garden. I love botanical gardens. Como Zoo, SanDiego...like the museum I find them fascinating. I'll read the names of every plant and tree, but more than anything else...I'll just sit there and enjoy the beauty of it... the life that is found in the garden.

From the dawn of creation, amazing things have happened in gardens.

**Genesis 1:26-27** "Then God said, Let us make man in Our **image**, according to our **likeness**; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God **created** man in his own image; in the image of God He created him male and female, He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful** and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**We were created:**

**1. To Bear His Image vs. 26**

Image: selem = resemblance, shade or phantom illusion (external image)

Likeness: demut = resemblance, similitude, in a concrete manner, (internal substance)

**2. To Exercise Dominion Vs. 26**

Dominion: rada = to rule, dominate, subjugate

**3. To Live in Communal Relationship with God and Others. Vs. 27**

Created: bara = to shape, form, fashion, create

Notice the community in which God exists and functions..."Let US create" he instills that community in them as he creates them male and female. We're created for communal relationship.

**4. To Be Fruitful vs. 28**

Fruitful: para = bring forth fruit

**5. With purpose Gen. 2:7**

**Genesis 2:7** "And the Lord God **formed** man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.

Formed: yasar = to mold and fashion for a predetermined purpose

- **Mankind is the only thing in all of creation that was created in the image of God with the predetermined purpose to receive His Spirit (1 Jhn 4:13,)**
- **Exercise dominion over his creation.**
- **Live in Communal covenantal relationship with Him**
- **And Commanded to be fruitful**

**We are positioned for a purpose**

**Genesis 2:8** “Then the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

**Genesis 2:15** “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and to keep it.

Eden: ayden = pleasure (the place God met with, talked with and walked with man in communal relationship)

Tend: abad = to work, serve

Keep: samar = to have charge of, keep watch, protect, take heed and be circumspect

**We were substantively created with the predetermined purpose of taking heed to God's presence and good pleasure in a communal relationship with Him.**

**The Garden was the place designed for that communal fellowship with God.**

**We are commanded:**

**Genesis 2:17** “And the Lord God **commanded** the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Within the command is the realization of His authority and our subjection. He is the Creator. We are His creation. He can expect our obedience.

It was in the garden that we **rebelled** against our creator, **rejected** our purpose, **relinquished** our dominion, **substituted** our own will for His and **broke fellowship** with His Spirit and **hid** from his presence.

**Conclusion:** Communion is the remembrance and the anticipation of what Christ accomplished to restore us to a proper position of fellowship.